**National Platform on Land and Water Management**

**Steering Committee meeting - ILRI campus, 11 May 2012**

**Present**: Adane Kassa (Water Action, chair); Betru Nedessa (MoA, vice-chair); Kees Swaans (secretary); Dejene Abesha (MoA); Feyere Abdi (SOS Sahel); Deres Abdulkadir (RiPPLE); Kifle Abegaz (CRS); Tilahun Amede (ILRI/IWMI)

**Excused:** Melaku Tadesse (SLM)

1. **Opening**

Meeting was opened by Adane Kassa and agenda was agreed upon.

1. **Personal changes Steering Committee**

Daniel Denano from SLM has taken up a position at FAO in Egypt. He has been replaced by Melaku Tadesse, who will also take over the position in the Steering Committee.

Zemede Abebe is not working as director any longer at RiPPLE. He has been replaced by Deres Abdulkadir, who will also take over the position in the Steering Committee.

Current members of the committee shortly introduced themselves.

1. **TOR for national platform**

Kees shared a brief note (2-pages) on the TOR for the national platform, working groups, secretariat and Steering Committee. It is based on former discussion in national platforms and the steering committee and is meant a first draft, which could be revised at regular moments.

Remarks:

* Task of co-funding is important and need to be included. As we strive to get additional funding for a long term engagements (at least 3 year), it requires the joint engagement of the secretariat and the committee to work on this. This means that whenever people want to do something or discuss about NRM, it is the idea that they will use the forum to share experiences and new insights. This also refers to new projects. Each SC member has a responsibility to promote the platform and its use, so that others can bring in small resources.
* Secretariat and SC should have more clearly described tasks
* Working groups may be slightly different and their TORs may be slightly different.
* Initially the secretariat will be led by the NBDC, but it is the aim to establish a national platform secretariat in the long term.
* Kees will review the TOR by taking into account the remarks. The TOR will be shared with the SC for approval; the TOR can be reviewed on a regular basis (e.g. yearly), but also if there are any other issues that need to be discussed, we should not wait, but contact each other by e-mail or other means.

1. **Second national platform meeting**

Kees shared the draft report for the second national platform meeting and shortly explained what was decided during the last meeting (especially in relation to the working groups). The current version needs to be reviewed, after which it can be finalized.

* Tilahun, Adane and Betru will review the document and give their feedback (if any) before Friday 18 May). Kees will follow up with knowledge management of ILRI to complete the report afterwards.

1. **Working groups**

During the second national platform meeting it was decided to form 5 thematic working groups:

1. Institutional innovation (led by Zalalem from Ripple and Alan Duncan from ILRI)
2. Technical innovation (led by Birru Yitaferu from ARARI)
3. Land and water management (led by Zemebe Abesa, supported by Betru Nedessa)
4. Policy influence group (led by Tesfay Alemseged from the Ethiopian institute of Water resources)
5. Resilient ecosystems (led by Daniel Denano)

Challenges:

* Some people who were leading the groups have left
* People seem to be too busy to develop an action agenda and/or TOR

How to move forward:

* People who were selected are promising, but the problem is that of incentives
* The idea of setting up virtual communities of people communicating through e-mail/skype may work in the long term, but may initially need a ‘push’ by getting people physically together.
* In addition, looking at the 2nd national platform report, some of the proposed teams to lead the thematic working groups are mentioned at the level of institutions, but we need to go beyond institutions; who will be responsible and what will be their tasks. They may even develop gant- charts, what do they want to achieve in a certain time frame, what is feasible/doable, what activities can be defined. This may require specific working group meeting facilitated by the secretariat (later is suggested to invite 2 groups per time)
* It was also mentioned that groups need to be realistic in what they can do themselves and may need additional resources (e.g. to hire a consultant), but also the option to build on their own knowledge or involve students for some activities/work can be considered.
* For groups to be effective, it will be important that key players and different sectors and type of organizations are involved. Groups need to have a nucleus of ca. 7-10 members, who may be able to mobilize other sources if necessary. In the long term, we also need to think about regional representation.
* We need to develop a strategy on how to support champions

There was a suggestion to reduce the number of working groups to four as water and land management seems to have some overlap with technological innovation according to some, while others mentioned that all groups fall under the umbrella of land and water management; also the names of some of the groups were adapted, and suggestions were made for personal changes in terms of leadership:

1. **Technological innovation** (which may include watershed management, land and water and vegetation)– to be led by Birru Yitaferu from ARARI (chair) and Dr. Assefa Taa from OROMIA research center (co-chair,)
2. **Institutional Innovation** – Zelalem, RiPPLE (chair) and Alan Duncan/Katherine Snyder (co-chair)
3. **Policy Lobbying Group** – Tesfay Alemseged (Ethiopian Institute of Water Resources), Dr. Assefa Admasie from Ethiopia Economic Institution, Leulseged Yirgu from RiPPLE
4. **Resilience Ecosystem and Climate Change** – Melaku Tadesse (SLM) (chair) and Belay Semane from Addis Ababa University (co-chair).

* In relation to climate change it was asked whether it wouldn’t be possible to involve someone from EPA .It was agreed that we should try to get them on board. The chair and co-chair of this group should try to meet with the director of EPA and try to involve them .
* It was also mentioned that the groups and potential members need to have a clear understanding of what is expected from them.
* Kees/Tilahun to contact/approach the chair and co-chair for leading each group (for as far as they have not be asked yet)
* Ask each chair/co-chair to come with 7-10 institutions/names of people to be involved in their group (expectation need to be clear) (this will be shared with chair/co-chair of SC for feedback) (Kees)
* Invite them for thematic group meeting at ILRI (2 at a time) to develop a work plan and TOR (For 2012, NBDC can support the thematic working group meetings).

1. **National platform meeting**

* The idea is to have the national platform meeting by mid-end of July (3rd or 4th week) for two days (tentatively planned for July 23 and 24); first day being on technical issues and second day on organizational issues.
* The national platform needs to be useful, hence it might be a good idea to spend half a day on a technical/seasonal session by bringing in experiences from elsewhere to debate and discuss
* Consider coming platform meeting to have technical/seasons session around vegetation management, tree planning, sustainable management, rehabilitation on forestation, participatory land and forest management, by inviting national forestry center, NGOs, ICRAF etc, and produce something out of it what can be taken further. What are the lessons from practice, what are the gaps; this issue is also closely related to climate change
* Important to have clear guidelines: what are successes, what are challenges/constraints….and what can be scaled up….and can be taken forward….
* There can be some success stories from Tigray, although it is mentioned that this is mainly due to natural regeneration and that men made forests are still a problem.
* There may be different regions, success stories, inviting ICRAF (from outside)….where are the challenges.
* Half a day can be spend on progress of working groups and discuss management/planning ; this part will also be important to encourage participation
* It will be important to ensure that the it is there will be clear outcomes in term of lessons learned, challenges…and how to take this further.
* Tilahun to inform about dates and whom to invite.
* Secretariat will further assist in developing the program; it is suggested to involve the chair and co-chair of the SC when developing the program

**7. Institutional collaboration/new developments**

* ILRI/IWMI with WaterAction and Addis Ababa University has submitted a proposal for DFID to strengthen institutional capacity on CRGE. We have mentioned that we are not starting from scratch, but build on an existing platform; if we get funding it may attract additional funding.
* We need to try to work with others to use national platforms as a means for their activities; by bringing in other institutions we can access resources for the coming good.
* Feyera mentioned that an opportunity may be the Civil society fund, managed by British council to help/facilitate networking/capacity building; only one call so far, but there may be another call….would be good to look into it.
* There may also be other opportunities for forming consortium and apply for funding.
* Tilahun indicated that it is also important to find out how the platform can be useful for CRS and vice versa. Kiffle indicates that there is a new person for Ethiopia. CRS has funding from USAID. Tilahun can ask Rob how CRS can use the forums to be more effective (joint benefits)
* Adana thanks Tilahun for his time investment for the proposal to DFID.

1. **Action items**
2. Revision of TOR and share with SC (Kees)
3. Working groups
   * Approach and ask chair/co-chair to make diverse groups of 7-10 key players (Kees/Tilahun)
   * Organize thematic working group meetings for work plan development and TOR (Kees)
4. 3rd national platform meeting
   * Planning (Tilahun to share)
   * Program/content (Secretariat with chair/co-chair SC)
5. Each SC member will be looking for opportunities for co-funding for the national platform
6. **Closure**